What is claimed is:

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- 1. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a pattern based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a pattern, comprising:
- a calculation device calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each pattern in a specific pattern set and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and
 - a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.
- 25 2. The pattern recognition apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising

a storage device storing both information about eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a covariance matrix of a fluctuating distribution of the category and information about eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a covariance matrix of the normal distribution,

wherein said calculation device calculates the value of the discriminant function using the information stored in the storage device.

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3. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a character based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a character pattern, comprising:

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a calculation device calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern of a specific font when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set of the specific font and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature

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vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and

- a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.
- 4. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing
 10 a character based on a value of a probability density
 function defined for each category in a feature vector
 space of a character pattern, comprising:

a calculation device calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern inputted by specific input equipment when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set, which is inputted by the specific input equipment, and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average,

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respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and

a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.

5. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a character based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a character pattern, comprising:

a calculation device calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern inputted with specific resolution when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set, which is inputted with the specific resolution, and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function

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and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and

a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.

6. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a character based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a character pattern, comprising:

a calculation device calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern when a set D_{SF} of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set of a specific font F and an average feature vector of each correct category, a set D_{SI} of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set, which is inputted by specific input equipment I, and an average feature vector of each correct category, a set D_{SR} of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a character pattern set, which is inputted with specific resolution

R, and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value f_1 of a probability density function f_0 of the specific category is defined at each point in the feature vector space using a normal distribution function with a autocorrelation matrix of the set D_{SF} as a covariance matrix, as a probability density function, an expected value f_2 of the expected value f_1 is defined at each point using a normal distribution with a autocorrelation matrix of the set D_{SI} as a covariance matrix, as a probability density function, an expected 10 value f_3 of the expected value f_2 is defined at each point using a normal distribution with a autocorrelation matrix of the set D_{SR} as a covariance matrix, as a probability density function, and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value f3; and 15

a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.

20 7. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a character based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a character pattern, comprising:

a calculation device calculating a value of a 25 discriminant function of a specific category for a

feature vector of a target character pattern included in an input document when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each character pattern in a set of character patterns, which are included in the input document and for which the maximum value of a probability density function of a category is larger than a threshold value, and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with a autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the target character pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function, and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and

a recognition device recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.

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8. A computer-readable storage medium which records a program for enabling a computer to recognize a pattern based on a value of a probability density function that is defined for each category in a feature vector space of a pattern, the program enabling the computer to

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perform:

calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each pattern in a specific pattern set and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value;

recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function; and outputting a recognition result.

9. A propagation signal which propagates a program 20 for enabling a computer to recognize a pattern based on a value of a probability density function that is defined for each category in a feature vector space of a pattern, the program enabling the computer to perform:

calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown

pattern when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each pattern in a specific pattern set and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value;

recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function; and

outputting a recognition result.

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- 10. A pattern recognition method for recognizing a pattern based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a pattern, comprising:
- generating a set of difference vectors by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each pattern in a specific pattern set and an average feature vector of each correct category;

obtaining an expected value of a probability density function of a specific category using a normal

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distribution with a autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors and a feature vector of an unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function;

obtaining a discriminant function of the specific category based on the expected value;

calculating a value of the discriminant function for the feature vector of the unknown pattern; and

recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value 10 of the discriminant function.

11. A pattern recognition apparatus for recognizing a pattern based on a value of a probability density function defined for each category in a feature vector space of a pattern, comprising:

calculation means for calculating a value of a discriminant function of a specific category for a feature vector of an unknown pattern when a set of difference vectors is generated by calculating a difference between a feature vector of each pattern in a specific pattern set and an average feature vector of each correct category, an expected value of a probability density function of the specific category is defined using a normal distribution with an autocorrelation matrix of the set of difference vectors

and the feature vector of the unknown pattern as a covariance matrix and an average, respectively, as a probability density function and the discriminant function is defined based on the expected value; and recognition means for recognizing the unknown pattern based on the value of the discriminant function and outputting a recognition result.